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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8
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DENVER, CO 80202-2466
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8EPR-SR

September 24, 1999

Ms. Barbara O'Grady
Colorado Department of Public Health
and Environment
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado, 80246-1530

RE: Vasquez Boulevard/ I-70
(VB/I-70) Site

Dear Barbara:

I am responding to your letter dated September 17, 1999 regarding EPA's request for an expedited review of the draft document "Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Vasquez Boulevard/ I-70 Bioavailability of Arsenic in Site Soils Using Juvenile Swine as an Animal Model". I sincerely apologize that the review period established by EPA for this document was inadequate to allow a meaningful review. EPA experienced scheduling difficulties with the laboratory chosen to conduct the work and I chose to make all attempts to proceed with the study rather than lose the opportunity. I understand the difficulties this presented for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the other interested parties. In an attempt to minimize these difficulties, EPA's toxicologist alerted CDPHE's toxicologist to this situation before we sent the document to you. These efforts obviously fell short. Please know that I consider such very short review periods only in unusual circumstances. In my judgement, this was such a case.

Please continue to review the document as you indicated in your letter. There is still an opportunity to influence the study during the second dosing phase. We are very interested in your input into the study and comments you have which may affect how EPA views the results.

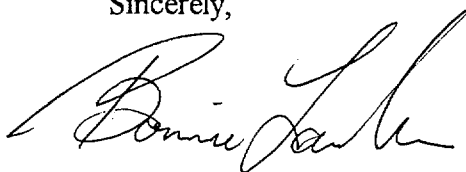
I am also interested in addressing the broader issue of review periods for other documents which support the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for this site. With the exception of the above mentioned document, EPA established review periods on all documents to date consistent with the agreements in the State of Colorado/EPA Superfund Memorandum of Agreement. If at any time you believe the established review periods are inadequate and an extended period is necessary, please request the time you need. EPA is very open to extending review periods as long as the schedule impacts are fully discussed and understood by all interested parties. I am confident that such discussions can occur in the monthly meetings of the Vasquez Boulevard/ I-70 Working Group.



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EPA will continue in our efforts to provide opportunities for meaningful CDPHE input into the VB/I-70 project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Lavelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bonnie" being more prominent than the last name "Lavelle".

Bonnie Lavelle
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Working Group